Grant for the Nevada Test Site truck driver school extended

by La Tomya Glass

The National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) extended the grant for the Nevada Test Site Truck Driver School operated by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters/Southern Nevada Teamster 631 Construction Industry Training Trust until June 2002.

"This training program is an example of our commitment to help train people for jobs currently needed at the test site and surrounding communities," said **Kevin Thornton**, NNSA/NV's program manager.

In 1999, $1.2 million grant from the Department of Energy established a Nevada Test Site Truck Driving School to certify licensed commercial drivers in cooperation with the Teamsters Local 631. A goal of the program is to provide new skills for workers to fill currently available certified driver jobs on the test site and the private sector. Former Nevada Test Site employees are given primary consideration for participation in the training program.

photo by Von Moll

The Nevada Test Site Truck Driver School, operated by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters/Southern Nevada Teamster 631 Construction Industry Training Trust, provides new skills for workers to fill available certified driver jobs on the test site and in the private sector.

The courses are five weeks and prepare drivers to successfully pass the Commercial Driving License (CDL) examination. Training takes place in Mercury at the Nevada Test Site and in Las Vegas, Nev. Union membership is not required in order to receive training.

For more information, contact **Southern Nevada Teamster 631 Training Center (702-651- 0344)**.

NNSA's North Las Vegas complex to become part of Advanced National Seismic System

by Derek Scammell

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) Nevada Operations Office (NV) Atlas Complex (located at C3, High-Intensity Source building), North Las Vegas, was recently approved as the site for the installation of a strong ground motion seismograph. The seismograph will record horizontal motion, the movement which causes destructive shears in buildings.

The Atlas Complex seismic station will eventually be one of 12 stations in the Reno-Carson City and Las Vegas urban regions by the end of Fiscal Year 2002. In addition to the Atlas Complex seismic station, three others will be installed at the

continued on page 2

Contents

SITELINES

A PUBLICATION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE NNSA/NV FAMILY

Issue 72 October 2001

NNSA's North Las Vegas complex to become part of Advanced National Seismic System

continued from page one

University of Nevada Las Vegas; the Community College of Southern Nevada; and at the Las Vegas Water Authority complex. The University of Nevada Reno, Seismological Laboratory will be the custodian of the retrieved seismic data from the Nevada seismic stations.

The 12 Nevada stations will be part of the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) Network of at least 7,000 shaking measurement systems, both on the ground and in buildings that will make it possible to provide emergency response personnel with real-time earthquake information, provide engineers with information about buildings and site response, and provide scientists with high-quality data to understand earthquake processes and solid earth structure and dynamics.

The seismic equipment has already been received from the University of Nevada Reno, and Bechtel Nevada will install the equipment in the Atlas Complex by the end of September.
The ANSS Network will cost about $170 million for equipment and about $47 million each year for operation and maintenance.

Seismic monitoring is vital to meet the nation's needs for timely and accurate information used in reducing loss of life and property from earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. The ANSS Network will also organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize seismic monitoring in the United States.

Up-to-now, most existing systems monitor either weak seismic motions or strong ground shaking, but not both. Modern seismographs can record both weak motions and strong motions on-scale with high accuracy. By bringing this information in through a central computer with modern high- speed telecommunications, it becomes an important tool for emergency response.

The ANSS Network will make it possible to provide a "ShakeMap" showing the greatest shaking and damage from an earthquake four minutes after an earthquake, which will make it possible to direct emergency response teams to those areas needing the greatest need.

Additional information about the University of Nevada, Reno Seismological Laboratory, and earthquakes can be found at: www.seismo.edu.

Kathy Carlson appointed acting deputy administrator for defense programs

by Kirsten Miller

Kathy Carlson, manager of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV), was appointed interim acting deputy administrator for defense programs by NNSA Administrator **John Gordon** in August. She will serve in the temporary position until the deputy administrator is approved by the U.S. Senate. President Bush has announced his intent to nominate Dr. **Everett Beckner** to replace **Madelyn Creedon**.

"I am very pleased that an experienced field manager like Kathleen Carlson is willing to step in and take on this responsibility," John Gordon said in an NNSA news release.

At NNSA, the defense programs' office is responsible for maintaining the safety, security, and reliability of the United States nuclear weapons' stockpile. Prior to becoming manager of the Nevada Operations Office, Carlson was an assistant manager for defense programs at NNSA's Albuquerque Operations Office. She has extensive experience in weapons' activities, including weapons maintenance, dismantlement, safety, and stockpile evaluation. Carlson began her career with the U.S. Department of Energy in 1975 as a health physicist.

"I was extremely honored when Administrator Gordon appointed me as acting deputy administrator for defense programs," Kathy Carlson said. "It makes me proud to serve in such a key position for the National Nuclear Security Administration."

Ken Powers, deputy manager of the Nevada Operations Office, is the acting manager in Carlson's absence.

Nevada Solar Dish/Stirling Project may provide answer to energy crunch

by Nancy Tufano

As energy prices continue to rise and blackouts become a common occurrence throughout the country, efforts are being put forth here in southern Nevada that may serve to eliminate some of the energy concerns of the future.

The Nevada Solar Dish/Stirling Project, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is a joint two-year initiative designed to provide a portable solar power generator system in southern Nevada that will collect the sun's energy and convert it into electrical power. DOE is working closely with professors and students from the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV); Nevada Power and private manufacturers to eventually install and operate at least one megawatt of solar dish power near Las Vegas, a preliminary step in making solar technology a commercially viable energy alternative.

photo by Nancy Tufano

The two solar enrgy dishes utilizing the Stirling engine can be seen from the intersection of Falmingo Road and Maryland Parkway on the University of Nevada campus in Las Vegas.

The Stirling engine dish, modular in design, is the main type of dish utilized for this project, although other types of dish designs will be evaluated for use in the project as they become available. The Stirling engine is a closed-heat engine with a working fluid of hydrogen. The most efficient type of solar power generator, a Stirling dish converts 20 percent to 30 percent of solar energy on the dish into electrical power by tracking and reflecting the sun's energy into a designated part of the dish, where it powers a generator to produce electricity. Two Stirling dishes used in this project are located on East Flamingo Boulevard, near the UNLV campus. A single unit has the capability of generating up to 700 watts of power and storing up to10 kilowatt hours, enough to provide electricity to a small house.

By 2002, the Nevada Solar Dish/Stirling Project will have 40 solar/ Stirling dishes located in southern Nevada to supply at least one megawatt of energy. Because of the size of the dishes, a large tract of land will be needed to host the project. Several areas offer the possibility of hosting a "dish farm." The Nevada Test Site Development Corporation has hopes of making El Dorado Valley, a dry lake bed area along U.S. 95 just outside of Boulder City, a high-tech valley of solar and wind plants that sells clean energy. Another remote possibility for the location of the Stirling dish farm is the Mercury Switching Station in Area 22 of the Nevada Test Site.

The Nevada Solar Dish/Stirling Project is working to provide a viable alternative to fossil fuel energy over an extended period, during which at least two generations of system designs will be deployed. The system will be evaluated and monitored from the time of deployment through 2004 to determine commercial feasibility.

Diversity, not a choice, but a workplace reality

by Frances Montes

We spend more time at our workplace than we do at home with our loved ones. In this new workplace we do not have a choice as to whom we work with, in order to accomplish our project, task, product, service, or deliverable. Mutual respect becomes more and more important as we work more and more in teams. The most important tool an employer can give to an employee is the knowledge of how to relate to others with mutual respect.

Diversity is not a choice. It is a workplace reality. When the workplace welcomes the contributions from people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and expertise, employees are more likely to believe that they are heard, understood, and most of all **respected.**

Diversity is a workplace reality if we want to continue to remain competitive in the global marketplace; compete with other organizations to hire, retain, and develop a qualified, well- trained and diverse workforce; have a more harmonious workforce (one that accepts and values differences); increase productivity; and minimize litigation.

News Briefs

Remediation of Amchitka underway

by Jodi Bechtel

The remote island of Amchitka, Alaska is served as a temporary home to workers from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The base camp, which at its maximum could hold up to 130 individuals, was established in early May 2001 to support cleanup activities on the island. The remediation is part of an overall effort to address environmental damage caused from previous U.S. Government occupations.

Amchitka, a small island off the coast of Alaska, is located about 1,340 miles southwest of Anchorage, near the western end of the Aleutian Islands. Amchitka was used primarily as a military base during World War II. The U.S. Air Force operated a weather station at the site in the early 1950s, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) conducted nuclear testing as part of a program to differentiate between an earthquake or a nuclear detonation in another country, and the U.S. Navy operated radar facilities on the island for surveillance of the north Pacific from 1986 until 1993.

Work completed this summer included removing water from 12 mud pits, stabilizing the mud, and covering the pits with earth and a liner. This should isolate the drilling mud from the environment. Other activities included draining and closing in place an underground storage tank, previously used to store asphalt for island runway repairs and plugging 16 shallow groundwater monitoring wells.

Since May, the base camp accommodated a wide range of personnel. Other government personnel included representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Biologists with the FWS were onsite to ensure the safety of the Aleutian Canada Goose, recently taken off the threatened species list. EPA scientists were conducting groundwater sampling as part of the Long-Term Hydrological Monitoring Program. Additional workers include medical and base camp support staff.

Despite an abundance of rain and three minor earthquakes, NNSA remediation activities remained on schedule. NNSA workers completed work at 12 mud pits and closed the 16 shallow groundwater monitoring wells and underground storage tanks. The work has gone well and native vegetation is already growing at some of the sites.

U.S. Department of Energy photo

After capping the pits to isolate drilling mud from the environment, a layer of topsoil is placed on the compacted material, and a mat with native seed mix is placed over the entire area.

In the November issue of SiteLines...

* Support provided to NY & DC
* OBOE 7 subcritical experiment
* Flu season returns

P2 expands recycling centers

by Kurt Arnold

North Las Vegas and Nevada Test Site recycling centers now can accept plastic bottles and cardboard in a recent expansion by the National Nuclear Safety Administration/Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) and Bechtel Nevada's Pollution Prevention (P2) staff.

Below is a question and answer session with **Al Karns**, Pollution Prevention Integrator, for NNSA/NV complex.

What prompted the expansion? Are we required by federal law to have a recycle program?

All Federal facilities are required by Executive Order (EO) 13101, "*Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*," to maintain a recycle program that is economically feasible and consistent with state and local regulations. As federal and contractor employees, each one of us is required by Federal law to participate in our site's recycling program. The recycle program in not a voluntary program that employees can "choose" to participate in; the Department of Energy Headquarters requires it for all employees.

In addition, the Department of Energy Headquarters' Pollution Prevention (P2) Program sets performance measures and goals for each site on the amount of waste generated, the amount of waste reduced, and the amount of waste recycled each year. In order to meet these measures and goals, it is essential for each employee to contribute.

What are the benefits for having a recycling program?

Landfills cost NNSA/NV millions of dollars to construct, permit, maintain and close once they are full. By diverting as much waste as possible through recycle and reuse (such as the material exchange program), employees can help NNSA/NV make the most cost effective use of taxpayer dollars. Cost effectiveness is achieved when money spent for the construction, permitting, maintenance and final closure of the landfill is saved because the landfill has a long life.

Recycling materials instead of disposing in landfills also lowers NNSA/NV's risk for cleanup if something placed in the landfill was discovered to cause pollution problems in the future. Also, full cooperation by all employees will enable NNSA/NV to meet the performance measures and goals set by the Department of Energy Headquarters for Nevada on recycling and reduction of solid waste generation.

photo by Kurt Arnold

Each building in the North Las Vegas Facility and at the Nevada Test Site will have at least one recycling center, such as the one pictured above.

Where are the recycling centers located (North Las Vegas Facility, Nevada Test Site, every building, just main facilities, multiple centers, outlying areas)?

Both North Las Vegas Facility (NLVF) and the Nevada Test Site (NTS) will have at least one recycling center located in each building. Larger buildings may have more than one, depending on the size of the building. Each center is placed in a central location. Employees are being provided with desk top recycle containers. Recycle materials will be collected in these desktop containers and when full, taken to the recycle centers by each employee.

Because of funding issues, recycle centers have not been set up at the Nevada Support Facility (NSF) or at any Bechtel Nevada offsite facilities (Remote Sensing Laboratory-Nellis, Remote Sensing Laboratory-Andrews, Special Technologies Laboratory, Los Alamos Operations, or Livermore Operations). Plans include having recycle centers at the NSF in Fiscal Year '02 (FY02). Offsite facilities will be added if and when the funding issues get resolved.

Is this a cost savings initiative? How much does it annually save?

Yes, this was a cost savings initiative. It is extremely hard to measure the actual cost savings. In Fiscal Year '00, paper and aluminum cans were recycled at the NTS, while paper, cardboard, and cans were recycled at the NLVF. We were able to increase the materials recycled in Fiscal Year '01 (FY01) to include cardboard, plastic and food waste at the NTS and plastic at NLVF without any increase in labor costs to collect the additional materials. A new subcontract was also negotiated for picking up the recycle materials from the NTS and the cans and plastic from NLVF, while reducing the overall cost of the subcontract by several thousand dollars. The purchase of a new baler at the NTS (operational in October of FY02) that will bale cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic, and possibly shredded paper will hopefully generate more cost savings by allowing the subcontractor to collect more recycle materials with fewer trips to the NTS.

continued on page 5

P2 expands recycling centers

continued from 4

Basically, the recycle centers were created to keep the cost of collection as low as possible, but also to increase the visibility of the recycle program by having prominent centers with very visible signs.

Who collects/processes the recycled material?

At the NTS, the recycled materials are collected by laborers and teamsters, going from building to building, sometimes from cubicle to cubicle. The recycle material is taken to a recycle facility behind the Mercury cafeteria, where it is stored until the subcontractor picks it up and delivers the material to recycling facilities in Las Vegas. In order to reduce the cost of recycle collection, it was decided to incorporate recycle centers at each building. The laborers go to these centrally located areas within each building to pick up the recycle materials instead of throughout the entire building from cubicle to cubicle.

The laborers and teamsters collect the recycle material from each building and transport it to a recycle facility located behind the cafeteria. At the recycle facility, the material will be baled and stored. The subcontractor will collect the material at regular intervals and transport it to Las Vegas, where it will be sold to local recyclers.

Recyclables at the NLVF are picked up by the janitorial staff and placed in large recycle containers outside each building. Republic Services picks up the mixed paper and cardboard and takes it to their recycle facilities. The NTS subcontractor picks up the collected aluminum cans and plastic. It was decided to consolidate the recycle containers that were scattered throughout each building into centrally located centers in order to add containers for plastic recycle. Because the janitors work under a subcontract, we did not want to have to renegotiate their contract by adding more containers. So, we consolidated the containers, removing containers in some areas and adding containers in other areas, which kept the total number of containers about the same.

At the NLVF, the janitorial staff, collects the recycle materials from the recycle centers and places it in the large recycle containers outside each building. Facility maintenance periodically transfers the mixed paper and cardboard to large roll-off boxes. Republic Services then picks up the large roll-off boxes and transports the material to their recycle facility.

Is there any revenue generated from the recycled material? If so, who receives the revenue?

In 1999, Congress passed the *Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act* which allows DOE sites to receive and use funds from the sale of materials recovered through recycling or waste prevention programs. Recycle revenue must be used for development and/or implementation of P2 Programs. This law allows NNSA/NV to place the revenue generated through the sale of recyclable materials back into the recycle program. Beginning in FY01, the subcontractor reimburses the amount of revenues generated from the sale of NNSA/NV recycle materials. This money is placed into a separate account and is used to offset the cost of the recycle program. As the program increases and **all** employees begin to recycle **all** their recyclable material, more revenue will be generated, reducing costs even more. It has been estimated that 50% of the waste currently going into the NTS solid waste landfills is recyclable. Again, everyone needs to do their part in order for this program to succeed.

Are there plans for future expansion of the recycling program? If so, what other materials might the expansion include?

As mentioned previously, we hope to expand the recycle center program to the Nevada Support Facility and the Bechtel Nevada off-sites pending resolution of funding issues. Plans may include the inclusion of other items to collect at the recycle centers. However, because neither the state of Nevada, Clark County, nor any local city governments require recycling, the available local markets for recycled materials are very limited. There is currently no market for recycled glass and most plastics other than #1 plastic. We would like to recycle wooden pallets, but before we can recycle them we need to find a way to resolve a few issues. Pollution Prevention staff members welcome any suggestions for recycling of other materials. We will investigate the markets to see if recycling your suggested materials is cost effective.

In addition to recycling mixed paper, cardboard, #1 plastic, and aluminum cans at the recycle centers, NNSA/NV recycle program includes recycling the following: food waste from the NTS cafeterias through the subcontractor (goes to the pig farm to feed the pigs); used automotive oil, lead-acid batteries, rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent light bulbs through the hazardous waste group; printer toner cartridges through the vendor (send spent toner cartridges to the warehouse through interoffice mail); electronic media (such as obsolete software, old floppy disks, compact disks, magnetic tapes, audio tapes, video tapes, etc. should be sent to the software administrator at NLV-032.); tires through the vendor; and scrap metal through property's scrap metal sales program.

If there is not a recycling center in my location, whom do I contact to see if one might be placed in my work area?

If you do not have a recycle center, need extra containers added to your center, or would like more desktop containers, contact **Dodie Haworth, BN (702-295-0656)** or **Al Karns, BN (702- 295-5689)**.

Historical ground motion data released to UNR

by Derek Scammell

In May 2001, at the request of the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), some ground study records were released to the UNR Seismological Laboratory to assist with their studies into earthquake activity in southern Nevada.

The collection of the records started 37 years ago when the Atomic Energy Commission's (AEC) Nevada Field Office, predecessor of National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Operations Office, identified a potential safety problem arising from the effects of ground motion generated by underground testing at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

As a result, in January 1964 the Nevada Field Office entered into a contract with John A. Blume & Associates, Research Division, predecessor of URS Consultants, Inc. and John A. Blume & Associates Engineers (URS/JAB) for consultation in the field of structural response to ground motion.

According to **Joseph Woodruff**, former manager of the Las Vegas URS/JAB field office, "We had the unique capability and responsibility of being the only known engineering firm in the United States to carry out measurements, investigations, and experiments to assess and predict the character and magnitude of ground motion, and how structures responded to ground motion as a result of nuclear tests and natural earthquakes."

"As part of our original contract, we developed an event instrumentation plan for the USGS to place seismic equipment on the ground and atop Las Vegas high-rises to monitor the ground and building motions. In 1979, we acquired the actual instrumentation tasks from USGS that included the installation, monitoring and repair of the seismic equipment. In addition, we maintained a seismic network of ground stations in small communities and historic sites surrounding the NTS, in Las Vegas. In 1983, we began to process seismic records for all NTS nuclear tests," explained Woodruff.

The off-site effects of underground testing became an important issue on September 13, 1963, when a 249-kiloton test named "Bilby" was detonated at the NTS. About 30 seconds after the device was detonated, workers on a Las Vegas high-rise found themselves hanging on while the building swayed from the just-arrived ground motion. Although Las Vegas is 65 miles from the NTS, the geologic nature of the valley caused longer periods of ground motion, that resulted in many taller buildings amplifying the motion.

Additional tests, some larger ones, were planned at the NTS while Las Vegas experienced an increase in high-rise building construction. It was essential that the Nevada Field Office ensure the safety of the neighboring population and minimize damage to private and public structures. As a result, the URS/JAB established a Seismic Safety Support Program.

Like most programs, the Seismic Safety Support Program began in a modest way. The objective was to obtain measurements in communities surrounding the NTS and from three high-rises in Las Vegas during the 200-kiloton test, *Turf*, conducted on April 24, 1964. In spite of instrument limitations and recording difficulties during the early years, important data were obtained. With each new test, seismic recorders were installed on additional buildings and in the surrounding communities.

In the late 1960s, according to Woodruff there were only 12 high-rise buildings in Las Vegas — in 1993 there were about 150. "Our mission was to promote good public relations with building owners, managers and representatives," said Woodruff. "To that end we always stressed the 'safety' aspect of the DOE seismic program. Consequently, we received excellent cooperation from building owners who appreciated the benefits of us placing sensors in their buildings."

In addition to its seismic studies and its effort to investigate the response of structures to underground testing ground motion, URS/JAB built two four-story reinforced structures in Area 1 of the NTS in 1966. These structures were built to conduct a series of low-amplitude tests over the next four years for engineering study tests. Ground motion studies were also conducted on wood-frame and brick structures at the NTS in Area 1, 3, and 19 and on several buildings in Mercury.

In 1993, URS/JAB concluded its long and illustrious association with the Nevada Operations Office. The demise of the former Soviet Union, the ouster of communist governments from several eastern block countries, the SALT II reductions in the nuclear stockpiles of the United States and Russia, and the nuclear testing moratorium all impacted URS/JAB's one-of-a-kind mission. URS/JAB'S staff transferred nearly three decades of historical seismic records to storage so they would be available for future reference. Some of these records have been requested by UNR.

Nick C. Aquilina, manager of DOE/NV from 1987 to 1994, said. "Words cannot detail the tremendous service that URS/JAB provided to DOE/NV over the years. The Seismic Safety Support Program was a great success, due in large part to the dedicated and professional staff of URS/JAB."

The new faces of NNSA/NV

by Kirsten Miller

Recruiting college students to work for the federal government is not an easy task. It is a well- known fact that many private sector jobs pay better than their equivalent federal positions. So why have nine undergraduate and graduate students accepted positions at the Nevada Operations Office? Here are some of the reasons the students gave:

"They were very flexible about my start date," said **Hilda Guerrero**, a student from California who works in the office of public affairs and information. "It was comforting to know I could take my time moving to Las Vegas."

"The training program offers employees a number of opportunities to develop their skills and stay current on the issues that affect their work," commented **Joni Norton**, waste management division.

Robert Junker, emergency management division, said "I knew I would gain invaluable experience working for the National Nuclear Security Administration."

Undergraduate and graduate students are hired through the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). The SCEP is a cooperative education program that provides paid work experiences for students who attend accredited universities. Work is related to the student's academic field of study and may lead to permanent employment if all qualifications are met. Some benefits of the program include tuition assistance, a full benefit package (sick and annual leave, paid holidays, health and life insurance, and retirement). Undergraduate students also have the choice of working part-time while taking classes and full-time during summer and winter breaks.

The students are not the only ones who benefit from this program. NNSA/NV gains young, motivated workers who contribute to the missions of the office and also help maintain the balance between the numbers of new and retiring staff.

Tony Lucero, a human resource specialist who coordinates student programs at the Nevada Operations Office said, "The SCEP program is excellent. It provides students a wonderful opportunity to learn and advance in their chosen career fields."

"It would definitely take a lot to make me leave," said **Justina Fleetham**, financial services division.

Working for the federal government is not just another job; it is the start of a rewarding career.

Opportunity knocks

by Nancy Tufano

An exciting opportunity is available to National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Operations Office, contractor, and subcontractor employees, as well as the general public. During the month of October, the Southern Nevada Operating Engineers Journeyman and Apprentice Training Committee is accepting applications for apprenticeships in the following areas:

- Equipment operator
- Heavy duty repairman
- General construction inspector
- Surveyor

An apprenticeship provides the opportunity to learn a trade in an official on-the-job program while earning a salary. Apprentices must attend classes, maintain a record of time spent in each classification, and satisfactorily complete both classroom and employment training duties before advancing.

Applicants must be 18 years of age and be legal residents of the United States. A high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma, birth certificate, discharge papers (if applicable) and a valid photo identification must be presented at the time of application. To gain entry to the program, applicants must possess a valid driver's license.

If you are interested in the apprenticeship program, applications may be obtained every Wednesday in October from the hours of 8:30 am through 4:00 pm at the William C. Waggoner Training Center, located at 6350 Howdy Wells Avenue in Las Vegas. Testing is required but no tests will be administered at the time of application. All testing will be conducted at a later date.

For more information about the apprenticeship program or about the Southern Nevada Operating Engineers Journeyman and Apprentice Training Committee, contact **Bert Tolbert**, director of training, **(702-643-1212)**.

Beyond the call

NTS Historical Foundation recognizes corporate champions

by Kurt Arnold

The Nevada Test Site (NTS) Historical Foundation Board of Trustees presented Bechtel Nevada, the NTS Development Corporation, Professional Analysis, Inc. (PAI), and Wackenhut Services, Inc. with Corporate Champions awards recognizing their support and contributions to the NTS Historical Foundation.

Steve Liedle, former Bechtel Nevada general manager presented Board of Trustees members' **Bruce Church, Linda Smith**, and **Troy Wade** with a $50,000 donation to the Foundation on behalf of Bechtel Nevada and the Bechtel Foundation.

The NTS Historical Foundation is a nonprofit corporation that operates exclusively to assist in the operation and promotion of the Nevada Atomic Testing History Institute (NATHI), which will preserve, consolidate and make accessible to the public historical and archival records, films, photographs, testing, and archaeological artifacts associated with the Nevada Test Site. The Foundation organizes volunteer services, acquires and donates monies and materials to the NATHI.

Montes receives 2001 Equality NOW Award

by Kurt Arnold

Fran Montes, senior workforce specialist, Bechtel Nevada, recently received a 2001 Equality NOW award from the Nevada National Organization for Women. Montes was honored for her support and involvement in the Las Vegas community.

Fran is very active in the Latin Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Employment Program, United Way of Southern Nevada, and is the current president of Hispanics in Politics. Fran's acceptance of the award marks the first time a Hispanic has been honored with this award.

"I was very honored to have been selected and to have received this award," commented Montes. "It is very humbling to be included in such an esteemed group of present and past honorees," she added.

The "Equality NOW" awards are annually presented by the Nevada National Organization for Women to five citizens of the state of the Nevada who champion the rights of women and children.

NNSA/NV receives Partnership Award

by La Tomya Glass

Jean Chartterton, Deborah Manning, Phillip Monette, and **Billye Neilson,** NNSA/NV Human Resource Division, Training and Development Program received the Partnership Award for exceptional accomplishments in training which have become a standard of excellence throughout the Department of Energy (DOE). **David Marks**, NNSA/NV assistant manager and chief financial officer, was recognized for Outstanding Leadership in the DOE training community.

photo by Rick Smith

(From left) ***Bruce Church****, president, NTS Historical Foundation Board of Trustees;* ***Steve Liedle****, former Bechtel Nevada president and general manager;* ***Troy Wade****, chairman, NTS Historical Foundation Board of Trustees;* ***Linda Smith****, secretary, NTS Historical Foundation Board of Trustees;* ***Mike Ebert****, general manager, Wackenhut Services, Inc.; and* ***Kathy Carlson****, manager, National Nuclear Security Administration were in attendance at one of the ceremonies to present Bechtel Nevada, the NTS Development Corporation, PAI, and Wackenhut Services, Inc. with Corporate Champion awards.*

photo by Von Moll

Powering a new generation

by Nancy Harkess

(From left) ***Earl Hodge****, engineer, National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV), a Palo Verde High School science student, and* ***Jenelle Hopkins****, teacher, Centennial High School, enjoy hot dogs cooked by solar power. NNSA/NV joined University of Nevada, Las Vegas in donating the portable solar unit to the Clark County School District to give students a hands-on way to learn about solar energy. The unit, capable of generating up to 700 watts of power — enough to meet the needs of a small house— was designed and built as part of a joint two-year project funded by an NNSA grant. A larger model also was constructed and will be used in remote areas of the Nevada Test Site.*

Contractors receive Awards of Excellence

by Kurt Arnold

In a ceremony on September 5, contractors to the National Nuclear Security Administration's Nevada Operations Office (NNSA/NV) were presented 2000 Awards of Excellence. This prestigious award is presented to contractors who make significant contributions to the Nevada Operations Office's nuclear weapons program. The awards recognize employees who made individual contributions or were members of a particular team.

Employees who received 2000 individual awards included:

Bechtel Nevada **Steve Lutz**

Wackenhut Services, Inc. **Mark Kilduff**

Those receiving 2000 team awards were:

Bechtel Nevada's Joint Actinides Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) Facility Team **Ronald Baker, Robert Braddy, Steven Cruz, Dennis Finney, Dennis Jeffrey, Carl Konard, Joe Maridon, Ron Norton, Robert Platoni, Dennis Wai,** and **Bruce Whitcomb**

Bechtel Nevada's Consequence Management Response to Cero Grande Fire Team **Wayne Bearden, Chris Bell, Sonia Bonilla, Dave Bowman, Paul Broadway, John R. Brown, Jr., David Butler, Gary Butler, Juvenico Castro, Gary Chilton, Audrey Christian, Russ Coffey, John Carrow, Kenneth Courville, Teresa Croft, Tommy Dahilig, Stuart Dan, Gregory DeMoss, Hal English, Steve Geherty, Charles Golanics, Al Guber, Cheri Hautala-Bateman, Dave Hawley, John Heller, Thane Hendricks, Irving Hopkins, Rhonda Hopkins, Mike Howard, Chris Joines, Jack Korous, Rick Lamison, Bill Leyrer, Carolyn Logan, Chuck Logan, Michael Lukens, Craig Lyons, Elaine McGlothen, Thomas McKissack, Rashelle Mahan, Keith Miller, Kenneth Mintz, Frank Moore, Angela Nawrocki, James Newhouse, Bob Nato, Pat O'Brien, John O'Donoghue, Lauree Ogeila, Karen Patton, Juan Pena, Ray Phifer, Stephanie Prothro, Ted Redding, Thane Reid, Steven Reidhauser, Larry Reynolds, Carson Riland, Cynthia Rivera, Scott Roadhouse, Keith Roesner, Gary Schmidt, Ethan Smith, Latrelle Smith, Robert Smith, Terry Smith, Mike Sorom, Rich Sorom, Vee Speziale, Jezabel Stamahar, Tom Sullivan, Rich Tighe, John Tipton, Don Van Etten, Rita White, Patrick Whitely, Alan Will**, **Dallin Wrigley**, and **Edward Zachman**

CCD Camera Development Team **Dottie Dranco** (LLNL), **Rusel Knight** (BN), **Don Little** (BN), **Jim Moody** (BN), **Darron Nielsen** (LLNL), **Noel Sewall** (LLNL), **Oliver Sweningsen** (BN), and **Mike Vitalich** (BN)

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Bechtel Nevada's VISAR Team **Dennis Barker, Ed Marsh,** and **Greg Mize**

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Bechtel Nevada's Unconditional Property Release Team **Robert Augdahl, Craig Lyons,** and **Michael O'Keeffe**

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WSI's OPSEC Security Education Section **Cindy Farinholt, Wayne Morris**, and **August Schellhase**

WSI's Environment, Safety & Health Section **Kathy Cunningham, Lori Plummer**, and **Richard Shook**

continued on page 11

Contractors receive Awards of Excellence

continued from page 10

WSI's Plans and Operations Section
Xavier Becerril, Mark Cannon, Richard Church, Robert Dahlberg, Richard Davis, David Duff, Lucille Fila, Thomas Gascoigne, Bruce Gasta, Lee Higbie, Carl Hoover, Kent Horlacher, William Jarvey, Don Kelley, Dennis Maher, Marvin Morris, Graig Newell, Leo Price, Gloria Sandoval, John Simon, Craig Soucy, and **Michael Voce**

WSI's Support Section **Raymond Gamble, Hugh Jones, John Moore**, and **Marvin Watkins**

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WSI's Information Services Section
Glen Murakami, Mark Kucera, and **Arthur Richardson**

WSI's Electronic Systems Section
Mario Fuentes and **Charles Stronach.**

Proper use of lock-out/tagout

by Joseph Honea

Lately, attention has focused on the proper methods for locking out and tagging out equipment during repairs, installation, maintenance, or construction. This is an important method designed to protect personnel from injury from stored or potential energy.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (29 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910) requirements are very explicit about Lockout/Tagout requirements for protecting workers from injury from all types of potentially dangerous energy sources, including electrical, chemical, thermal, temperature, hydraulic, pneumatic, compressed air, or steam.

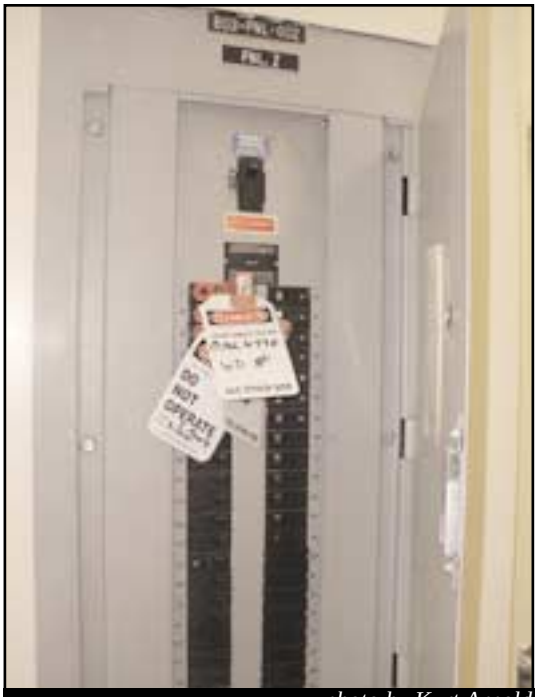


photo by Kurt Arnold

"Lockout/Tagout" protects workers from injury from all types of potentially dangerous energy sources. Pictured above is an actual electrical circuit panel correctly labeled and in compliance with the proper method of Lockout/Tagout.

The basic steps for all employees to follow who work on equipment with stored or potential energy includes:

- Notify affected employees
- Shut down equipment
- Isolate equipment
- Apply lock and tag
- Reduce equipment to zero energy state
- Verify energy isolation and lockout devices
- Perform task
- Remove isolation and lockout devices
- Assure machine is clean, intact, controls in neutral, and all employees are clear and safe
- Energize equipment/machine and assure proper operation
- Notify affected employees that machine is released for normal operation

There are several other key requirements to remember:

- Under no circumstances should an employee work under someone else's lock and tag or install a lock and tag for another person.
- Locks and "Danger – Do Not Operate" tags are attached to all hazardous energy isolating devices when shut off. (This notifies other employees that the device is not to be operated.)
- "Danger – Do Not Operate" tags are not be used for purposes other than Lockout/Tagout. Lockout/Tagout is performed for the protection of workers and should never be used as a means for removing equipment from service.

Finally, if you are unable to physically lockout/tagout a piece of machinery or if you are unfamiliar with the safe shutdown procedures for a piece of machinery, you must **STOP WORK** and notify your supervisor/manager before doing anything else.

If you have questions or concerns about "Lockout/Tagout", contact the **Bechtel Nevada's Environment Safety & Health Division (702-295-7790)** or the **National Nuclear Security Administration/Nevada Operations Office's Environment Safety & Health Division (702- 295-1433)**.

Lessons Learned

Awareness of safety precautions in unfamiliar work areas

by Dawn Starrett

The following lessons learned is shared by a Bechtel Nevada employee.

An employee that works at a company that prints and mails promotional information for local hotels had an accident during a training session. An employee was demonstrating how to operate one of the printing machines to a second employee. The employee giving the demonstration had dropped something and was looking around when the second employee saw that the item had fallen down inside the machine. She laid her arm across the top of the machine and rested her head on her arm while she reached down inside the machine to retrieve the object. Her hair was immediately caught by one of the rollers that ripped a 3-inch diameter clump of hair from her head.

The organization has a requirement that hair should be tied back when working on any machine. Since the employee was not actually working on the machine, she had not tied her hair back. Employees had also been instructed to never reach inside a machine while it was running. She stated later that she "just did not think." The employee saved her head from being pulled inside the machine or having her entire scalp removed when she laid her arm across the top of the machine and rested her head on her arm when she reached down. The incident was painful and it is unlikely that the hair patch removed will grow back.

This incident is a painful reminder to never reach inside a piece of equipment that is operating. It also reiterates the need to observe safety precautions in the vicinity of operating equipment, even if a worker does not plan to operate the equipment. Workers should also remove or secure loose clothing (e.g., neckties, jackets, badge holders, sweaters, etc.) to prevent a similar incident involving equipment that can catch and pull.

If you have a lessons learned to share or if you have benefitted from using a lessons learned that was shared with you, contact **Dawn Starrett, Site Lessons Learned Coordinator (702-295- 4297)**.

Partnering for Education

This feature will highlight the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office and Bechtel Nevada's partnership with the Clark County School District's Focus School Program.

photo by Kurt Arnold

Some of the many school supplies collected for focus school students.

Bechtel Nevada Focus School supply drive

by Judith Lacuadra

For the past four years, Bechtel Nevada employees have donated supplies to their two Focus Schools. School supplies were delivered to Jim Bridger Junior High School and Kit Carson Elementary School. Both teachers and students were thrilled to receive these supplies as they are in need of everything.

Binders, backpacks, pens and pencils, construction paper, crayons, and binder paper were donated during the school supply drive. Kit Carson Elementary will use some of the supplies as incentives for their students. Jim Bridger will give all their supplies directly to their students.

Bechtel Nevada is very involved with these two schools throughout the year. We will therefore collect school supplies all year long. Should you wish to contribute supplies, please drop them off to **Judith Lacuadra,** B3, Room 3551 located in the North Las Vegas Facility, and we will deliver them to the schools.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 3
Community Advisory Board meeting. Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Carla Sanda, IT (702-295-2910)**.

October 8
NNSA/NV offices closed in observance of Columbus Day holiday.

October 11
Technical Area 18 (TA-18) Missions Public Hearing. Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility, North Las Vegas, Nev. Contact **Scott Traeger, NNSA/NV (702-295-5366).**

October 24
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

October 25 (11:30 a.m. repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: "Tests Tumbler-Snapper through Upshot/Knothole." Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295-0552)**.

November 12
NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Veteran's Day holiday.

November 14
Community Advisory Board meeting. Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Carla Sanda, IT (702-295-2910)**.

November 15 (11:30 a.m. repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: "Operation Ivy"- Part I. Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295- 0552)**.

November 20
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

November 22 and 23
NNSA/NV and contractor offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday.

December 13
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

December 230 (11:30 a.m. repeated at 12:15 p.m.)
NNSA/NV's Brown Bag Film Series: "Operation Ivy"- Part II. Great Basin Room, Nevada Support Facility. Contact **Jeff Gordon, BN (702-295-1628)** or **Michael Brown, RAI (702-295- 0552)**.

January 15, 2002
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

February 21, 2002
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

March 27, 2002
NTS Public Tour, open to interested members of the public. CP-1, Sedan Crater, Frenchman Flat, HAZMAT Spill Center, Bilby crater, Area 5 Low-level Radioactive Waste Management Site, Apple II houses. Contact **Brenda Carter, BN (702-295-0944)**.

Declassified Film Showings
For information on declassified film showings at NTS CP-1, contact **Denise Langendorf (702- 295-4015)**. For information on declassified film showings at NTS Yucca Mountain, contact **Rod Rodriguez (702-295-5825)**.

Upcoming conferences and trade shows

September 30 through October 4
8th International Conference on Environmental Management (ICEM'01). Oud Sint-Jan Hospital Conference Center, Bruges, Belgium. For additional information or to register, visit the ICEM'01 Conference home page (**www.icemconf.com/ICEM01/main.htm**).

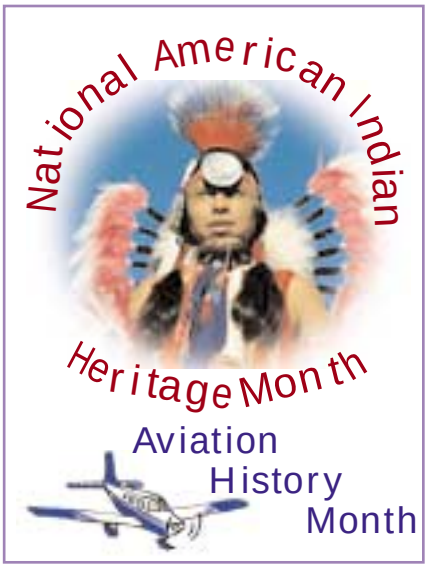
October 1-5
Sardinia 2001 - Eighth International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium. Forte Hotel Village Complex, S. Margherita di Pula (25 miles from island capital of Cagliari), Italy. U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration is one of the sponsors for this symposium. For additional information, visit the Sardinia Symposium 2001 home page (**www.sardiniasymposium.it/reginfo.asp**).

October 19-20
Women in Engineering Conference 2001. Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. For additional information, contact conference personnel **(979-845-7200)** or via e-mail to west@eapo.tamu.edu.

October 24-26
World Energy Engineering Congress. Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia. For additional information, contact **AEEC (770-279-4386)** or via e-mail to **brian@aeecenter.org**.

November 11-16
International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition, New York Hilton Hotel & Towers and Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, New York, New York. For additional information, contact **ASME (800-843-2763)** or visit their web site (www.asme.org). Electronic registration is available (www.asmeconferences.org/congress01/registration.cfm).

November is:



MILESTONES

Bechtel Nevada

35 years — *Las Vegas* - **Leon Haskin, Jr., Richard Schlueter, George Simmons, Jr.**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **Robert Heiduk**

25 years — *Las Vegas* - **Max Dolenc, William Hankins**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Ronald Baker**; *Livermore Operations* - **Timothy Sammons**

20 years — *Las Vegas* - **Roger Pratt Jr.**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Bill Coburn, Lee Keefer, Darryl Pavelec, Robert Thomas, James Veater**

15 years — *Las Vegas* - **Shirley Brown, Patricia Molina, Shirley Smith**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Felder McLaurin, Allan Muggli**

10 years — *Las Vegas* - **Sally Davis, Rose Denton, Raymond Sunday**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Dona Hardy, Bruce Hill, Debra Ochoa, Dale Owens**; *Livermore Operations* - **Richard Shellman**

5 years — *Las Vegas* -**Lloyd Desotell, Inez Salcido**; *Nevada Test Site* - **Judy Kallas, James Schimick**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Michael Hertrich**; *Special Technologies Laboratory* - **Stephen Weeks**; *RSL-Andrews Operations* - **Charles Zimmerman**

New Hires — *Las Vegas* - **Michael Andersen, Stanley Brewster, Jr., Ninfa Guarrella, Lawrence LaBrecque, June Maes, Anthony Myers, Samuel Shedd, Larry Snowden, Dovie Spear, Wayne Toone, Jerry Yanke**; *Nevada Test Site* - **April Brown, Bret Haynes, Daniel Kirker, Trey Kish, Donald Lamoreaux, Herbert Moore, Daniel Paul, Glenn Richardson, Phillip Worley, Eddie Wright**; *Los Alamos Operations* - **Matthew Gurule, John Hollabaugh, Anthony Zukaitis**; *Livermore Operations* - **Jonathan O'Connor, William Warthan Jr.**; *RSL-Andrews Operations* - **Matthew Hebert**

National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Operation Office

35 years — **Budd Bornhoft, Jr.**

30 years — **James Delong, David Schlegel**

25 years — **Mary Smith, Alice Wiggins**

20 years — **Steven Curtis**

Desert Research Institute

20 years — **Edward Hackett**

15 years — **Janice Payne**

10 years — **William Hartwell**

Environmental Protection Agency/R&IE

10 years — **Kuen Huang**

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

20 years — **John Miller**

5 years — **Terry Butler**

SCI, WANG

5 years — **June Calvan, Nancy Lwis**

U.S. Geological Survey, WRD

30 years — **David Beck**

25 years — **Craig Westenburg**

Wackenhut Services, Inc.

15 years — *Nevada Test Site* - **Darrell Baggs**

— *Compiled by Tamiko Brown*

SITELINES

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